

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT
THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, \$1.50
PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME VIII.

ASHLAND, OHIO., DECEMBER 1, 1886.

NUMBER 48.

He Was Better To Me.

He was better to me than all my hopes,
He was better than all my fears;
He made a bridge of my broken works,
And a rainbow of my tears.

The billows they guided my sea-girt
path

Carried my Lord on their crest,
When I dwell on the days of my wil-
derness march.

I can lean on his love for the rest.
—Anna Shipton.

West Union, Iowa.

Commenced meetings at a school house by the name of Clifton, near brother Joseph Poor's, some five or six miles north-east of West Union, Fayette Co., Ia., on the 6th inst., and closed on the 18th. This place is near the Turkey River. Bro. Strother Hansel had held a meeting at this point a few weeks previous, during which time he baptized our worthy brother John Poor. His wife who belongs to the G. B. church, also cast her lot with us. Both of them are upwards of seventy-five years of age. I preached the word of God for about six or seven days before I extended an invitation to any to unite with us in the common faith of the blessed Christ. By this time quite an interest was manifested among the entire congregation, those who made a profession and those who did not. The great trouble at this place was that many had been baptized by single immersion, and therefore tried to think their baptism valid. One of them said to me, "Did you ever know any one that had been baptized by single immersion go back to sprinkling?" I said "No," and asked him this question: "Did you ever know any one who was baptized by trine immersion to be rebaptized by single immersion?" He answered "No." Then I said, we trine immersionists are one step ahead in baptism at any rate. On my way home, at West Union, I met a man in the B. O. & Northern R. R. depot who believes in single immersion. I asked him if he ever knew one that had been baptized by trine immersion and afterwards rebaptized by single immersion. He said, "Yes, I knew one, but he was an old man. I do not think he was in his right mind." One night after the sermon, (I had spoken on the subject of foot-washing, the Lord's Supper and communion,) a Norwegian, an aged man, came up and gave his hand, saying, "You go right through the book; that is religion; it is the religion of the Bible."

The immediate result of our meeting was six converts. These I baptized in the Turkey River on the last day of our meeting.

We met at the house of sister Anna Stiner, jointly occupied by her and her brother, Peter Wagoner. There took dinner, and at 2 p. m. started to the River. The wind was quite cold, so much so that those on the shore were very uncomfortable. Sisters Anna Stiner and Mary Wagoner, wife of friend Peter Wagoner, had been members of the Disciple church. Brethren Joseph Poor and his son Isaac were members of the Albright or Evangelical

church. Brother John Foquet and wife were not members of any church. Bro. John said he tried with all the ability that he had to disbelieve the inspiration of the scriptures and the divine origin of Christianity, but the scriptures proved too much for him. Bro. John's mind, heart, and life are changed. Instead of preaching infidelity he is preaching the Gospel of the blessed Christ, to his neighbors and almost everybody he meets. God bless him and his companion, that they may prove faithful. Bro. Foquet is a young man yet and pretty well versed in literature; and when he becomes well acquainted with the Bible he will make a noble preacher of the gospel.

I organized in part a little church at this place, consisting of nine members, two of whom were not present on account of old age. The organization will be completed at a communion meeting to be held in a few months.

May the divine blessing of God rest upon the little Zion at Clifton.

J. NICHOLSON.

Hudson, Nov. 22nd, 1886.

Chronicles.

Owing to circumstances over which I had not much control, I called in the appointment at "Squaw town," of which I spoke in a former communication, and made arrangements to respond to the solicitation of brother D. Miller, of Sidney, Ind., to take up the work at that place where brother Bashor had to leave off for want of time. When I was nearing the train to go to Sidney, brother Bosard, of Buck Creek, overtook me and so earnestly insisted on me to preach his daughter's funeral that I consented to do so, and so informed brother Miller, first by a telegram, then a letter of explanation. In consequence of the hindrances which we could not reasonably avoid, we did not reach North Manchester until about midnight, on the 7th, from where we expected to go to begin services at Sidney on the evening of the 8th, according to the second arrangement. Now just a short time before brother Penrod was going to start from Manchester to convey me to Sidney, brother Miller brought the word that the Christians, (New Lights, in this case more New Light than Christians) were going to begin a revival in the same church at the same time that we had set, and as they probably had the best right to the house, of course we had to succumb, and I remained with the brethren at Manchester until after their communion on the 12th. The feast was grand. I spent the few days that I remained at Manchester very pleasantly visiting old friends and forming new acquaintances. I also tried to preach a few times, evenings.

On Saturday the 18th, I went to South Bend, where brother B. F. Wagoner met me and took me out to his home. Next morning brother W. and wife, and myself went to the new church.

It is a beautiful structure, 30x40 with a good bell to call the people together, and a beautiful organ inside to entertain them with sweet music after they are together. Then there is brother Rittgers, towering six feet and six inches heavenward, to tell the "Old, old story of the cross." With all this furniture, and the blessings of God the church will prosper. Brother J. C. Ewing furnished us instrumental music for the dedicatory services, and for the evening services of that day. We continued our meeting at the church, evenings, when the weather would allow it, until the evening of the 21st. We were stormed out, two evenings. During this meeting, when the weather was favorable, the congregations were large, the music, both vocal and instrumental was excellent, and the preaching such as we were able to make it, and with the sweet music attending the services, the people gave profound attention. And, although we did not have an ingathering, the indications were that several were very near the kingdom.

The good brethren, God bless them, held out all the inducements that one could reasonably expect to have me to stay a week longer, but my arrangements were made and I could not do so without making disappointments elsewhere. Brother Rittgers is now, I suppose, wielding the sword at Edna Mills. May God crown his efforts with grand success.

I arrived here at Primrose, Williams Co., Ohio, today, and am now writing my chronicles at the pleasant home of Mr. A. Bricker, and will begin a protracted effort in the Winebrenarian church this evening, trusting to God for results.

J. H. SWIHART.

Nov. 23th.

Things in General, Some Things In Particular.

A two million dollar bridge.—The B. & O. have opened a line to Philadelphia from Baltimore. They had to bridge the Susquehanna. This bridge is a grand piece of work, reaching ninety-five feet above the water, one mile and a quarter long. It was erected at a cost of two million dollars. The company wanted to get across the river and they were willing to pay for it. If men were only willing to bridge the gulf from sin to holiness they would do so, but many, like those of old, will not come that they might have life.

An unexpected pleasure.—I found out in Baltimore when about to take the cars, that the conductor was from Harpers Ferry. I made myself known and we were soon engaged in a chat about the old place. I knew him when a boy and it was a pleasure to meet under such circumstances; no doubt heaven will be very attractive because of the unexpected meetings that will take place.

"It is the hand of Christ."—This tract on giving ought to have a large circulation. A

good Christian woman paid for the plates and the first edition of five thousand copies. We have scattered many and will send them out free between now and Christmas, if you will send stamps to pay postage. We have a number of tracts in preparation.

The Church-member's Hand Book.—This is a sixty page book, neatly printed and nearly ready to send out. Its object is to develop spirituality and make church members better Christians. It is a compiled work, and will give satisfaction, I think. The poem, "Our Church" was written for me by a gifted Christian woman. It (the book) is illustrated and either of the illustrations will be worth the price of the book, 10 cents. Members of the Tract Society will receive a package free. Any one selling 15 or 20 copies of this work will receive a handsome book free. Address the Tract Society.

Some of our friends failed to be with us at our Love Feast, owing to the weather. Hope they will come next time. We miss them very much and are always glad to see them. We have received a new member, and are looking for more.

I agree with Bro. Brown about the value of silence. Scattering the EVANGELIST when loaded with controversy, does harm, not good. As Bro. Spanogle suggests, the paper is not confined to members, and those not members look at things from a different point of view altogether. But perhaps when the churches get their fingers burnt two or three times they will find out that fire is hot. If we are congregational in government, let us be so in fact and not only in theory.

JOHN DUKE McFADEN.

Terra Alta, W. Va.

Having been solicited to come to the help of the "brethren" at Prosperity church, Wirt Co., W. Va., I left home early on the morning of Nov. 2nd, 1886. Arrived at Parkersburg about noon, and was met by Bro. H. C. Bolyard and conveyed about twenty miles out into the country to the home of Bro. Province. Preached that evening to an attentive audience at what is known as the Savage Point school house. Returned to the home of Bro. Province and remained until the evening of the following day. I was then taken to the church some four miles distant where arrangements were made for a protracted service which began that evening and continued until Monday evening, the 22nd. We held communion services on the last evening of the meeting. Brethren and sisters who took part seemed to enjoy these very much. The congregation was quiet, orderly and attentive. During our meetings eight came out on the Lord's side. Two were received upon confession, five were baptized, one was left unbaptized.

On the evenings of the 24th and 25th, we were again at Savage Point school house. On the morning of the 26th, Bro. Prov-

ince conveyed us to Parkersburg, took the evening train, arrived home safe about twelve o'clock at night, and found all well, for which we felt thankful.

The ministers in the Prosperity congregation are, C. J. Showalter, Thomas Showalter, and John W. Province. The sea over which the "Brethren" here have been sailing has been more or less disturbed by storms of malice and ill will. Waves rolled high sometimes and dashed their spray and foam in our faces, but the dark cloud seems to be broken; light is dawning. The hope is entertained that the tempest has spent its power and that a calm will follow. Thanks brethren and sisters for your kindness and substantial gifts. Live in peace and the God of all grace be with you.

S. W. WILT.
Nov. 27th, 1886.

Plumbville, Pa.

I am happy to say we have had a pleasant time while filling Eld. J. B. Wampler's appointments in his absence. I found many warm hearts at each place bidding me welcome. Our first pleasure was in meeting with the Brethren of Glade Run, some 20 miles from where I reside. Preached two sermons in said church, having good attendance and attention; thence north 11 miles to Brush Valley meeting house. Labored with the brethren there at 7 p. m., and next day at 10 a. m. Had a pleasant time indeed. I returned to Glade Run on Sabbath evening and preached again for them. Theme of our subject, "True conversion or what makes a Christian." We are glad to inform our readers, and especially adjoining congregations, that the Brethren of Glade Run have again resorted to prayer service, once each week at their house of worship. I am unable to say how some of our Brethren churches do prosper without prayer services. Those I mean, who expect their preachers to preach, pray, sing and bear his own expenses, while they sit like so many statues, never once saying even Amen.

Our next appointment to fill was in the Manor Congregation; found all well and at service. In fact I found some I did not expect there. A G. B. sister told me her heart was with the Brethren and in their work. That is good so far sister; come a little farther and that will be better, for it is high time to awake out of sleep.

I preached three sermons for the brethren and others at that place and said farewell to all. Our next appointment is at the Brethren church in Cowenshannoc, congregation.

Pray and labor on Brethren, we are gaining ground. The Lord will not fail to bless your effort. Thanks to all for their kindness toward one of God's weak servants, while among you. Yours in hope of heaven.

E. H. SMITH.